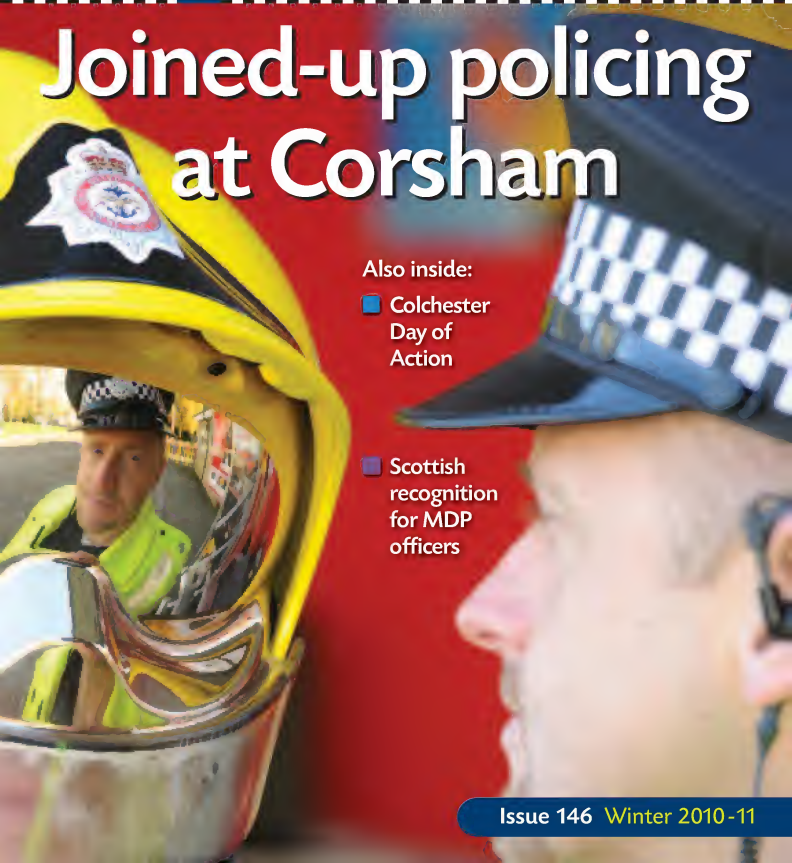
Talk Through

The Magazine of the Ministry of Defence Police



Joined-up policing at Corsham

Also inside:

- Colchester Day of Action
- Scottish recognition for MDP officers

Issue 146 Winter 2010-11

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FRONT COVER:
PC Lee Maplesden, Corsham DCPO, reflects on his wide-ranging community policing role

Photograph by Paul Kemp

Talk Through

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We welcome articles and photos of interest to readers, but reserve the right to shorten/edit contributions.

Staff contributing articles should ensure they are suitable for open publication. If you would like to discuss your contribution, please contact the Editor.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Equal Opportunities

Minister outlines challenges ahead

Andrew Robothan MP, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans visited MDPHQ Wethersfield in December, for a series of briefings and to attend the Chief Constable's annual Town Hall staff meeting.

By Norman Hicks

Photographs by Paul Kemp

Mr Robothan was met on arrival by CC Steve Love and the chairman of the MOD Police Committee, David Riddle, and was given briefings on the MDP's Afghan effort, the role of Defence Community Police Officers in looking after Service families back at home and the work of CID in detecting and prosecuting theft of military materiel.

At the Town Hall meeting later in the day, he said of the visit:

> **It is a great opportunity for me to be able to visit and speak with you. I am here to learn and to hear about the sterling work you do for Defence and for this country, both at home and overseas.**

I do know, because I've seen you both in the MOD Police and the Guard Service around the country, that you protect some of our most critical Defence and national infrastructure sites and do so in all weathers.

You keep open the key sites, including Main Building where I work and I know you provide an array of services, including in particular nuclear guarding on land and at sea. You also have community police officers working with Service families on the Defence estate and I understand you also defended the Ministry of Defence during the recent student riots.

We are grateful and the whole Government is grateful for the services that you continue to provide, particularly at times such as this and I know these are times of great change and uncertainty.

The decisions we have made through the Strategic Defence and Security Review have not been easy. The financial settlement we have reached for Defence will of course have implications not only for the front line and armed forces, but also for civilians such as yourselves, who provide the essential equipment and important support services that we need.

We all know that we cannot spend money that we have not got and I'm afraid the country has been spending money that it has not got.

We do have to get the nation's books to balance as well as to make the most of the resources the nation can afford for Defence and the organisations and structures in which we work will have to change.

There will be fewer civilians across Defence and we will look to be leaner and more cost-effective. I am very well aware this will be a matter of grave concern to everyone in this room, to you and your families.

I want to make clear that Defence remains hugely important and that civilians will continue to play central and essential roles, as they do now and as you do now.

In January the Defence Board will be considering a range of measures to reduce the costs associated with policing and guarding Defence establishments across the UK, as part of the ongoing Planning Round 11, or PR11 process.

However, we will continue to safeguard Defence sites – we have to. And we have to continue to safeguard our people, our assets and our information and we will never take any measures that place these at undue security risk.

Security needs may be changing but Defence will continue to remain critically important for the nation, as the war in Afghanistan, the risk of cyber attacks and terrorist incidents at home and abroad illustrate.

Despite the cuts, the UK continues to be the fourth largest spender on defence in the world – one of the few countries that can deploy globally with a full range of capabilities.

We have admired and highly professional Forces and their success is

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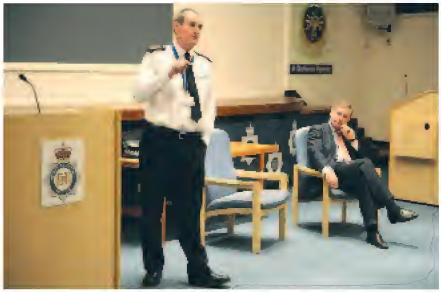
Chief's Message

Chief Constable Steve Love, in his end of year message to all Agency staff, said:

"I did not want this year to slip by without taking the opportunity to thank everyone in this Agency – civilian, guard or police, whether in the UK or overseas – for the contribution you have made to Defence, to our customers and to the Agency, and thereby of course to the armed forces, their people and their families during a time of great challenge for them.

"It has been difficult. We are now nine per cent under-borne overall, more in some places, with the prospect of great change in the years to come, and much uncertainty right now.

"But we have not dropped our vigilance or our commitment and of this we should be proud."



Minister outlines challenges ahead

enabled by the work of yourselves and other civilians in Defence.

So there will be a continuous need for a professional civil service in Defence performing a wide array of roles, both administrative and other services such as those you provide, that are needed by the armed forces.

The MOD remains a very large employer. We expect 60,000 or more civilians still to be employed by the MOD after the changes have been effected.

We continue to have national and international responsibilities which are essential to national life and you will continue to have interesting and essential work to do. We will have continued professional development and personal opportunities and remain a very good place to work.

I don't underestimate the very big challenges both professional and personal that may accompany the changes ahead for all of us in Defence, including those in this Agency. There is a huge amount to do but I am confident and the Government is confident that we can and will work our way through these difficult times.

May I thank you again for all you and your colleagues who are not here do in the UK and abroad?

New Year Honours

Two members of the Agency Management Board received recognition in HM the Queen's New Year Honours for their contributions to Defence and to the MDPGA in particular.

STEVE LOVE, Chief Constable, receives the Queen's Police Medal (QPM) for distinguished service, having started his career with Cambridgeshire Police in 1978. He has been Chief of the MOD Police and Chief Executive of the MDPGA since 2005.

He said: "This honour is a testament to the drive of everyone within the MDP to provide the best policing service possible to the defence community and beyond.

"I'm very pleased to have received it but let me say that it is entirely due to the performance of the Force as a whole, and the contribution they are making to the security of our country."

SANDY MACCORMICK, Head of Profession for the Ministry of Defence Guard Service, receives the OBE. After a distinguished career in the armed forces and latterly in the MGS, Sandy will be retiring later this year. More details will appear in the Spring edition of the MGS newsletter **Flashlight**.

Complex investigation catches scam couple

By Steve Partridge

A soldier and his wife have both been found guilty of fraud by false representation after setting up an elaborate scam to defraud regimental funds.

The pair were caught following an 18 month investigation by detectives based at MOD St Athan.

An investigation was launched after suspicions were aroused about an insurance claim made against the theft of property from the President of the Regimental Institute Shop at St Athan.

Detective Sergeant Graeme Nixon said: "In April 2008 we were made aware of a claim submitted by the Army to the insurance company for the items reported stolen.

"A special investigator employed as a loss adjuster for the insurance company had raised concerns about the amount of kit that was said to have been stolen when the method of entry and exit was via a single broken window."

MDP CID began an investigation and further anomalies were soon raised about the running of the shop.

"The shop is there to supply kit and mementoes which are not otherwise officially supplied," said DS Nixon, "The money generated then goes into regimental funds for the benefit of all the ranks within the unit as opposed to the central funds of the MOD.

"At this time it was being managed by a soldier who was required to contact various suppliers to obtain items for sale in the shop.

"When we looked at the list of companies involved and dug a bit deeper we found one of these companies had been set up in early 2006 at around the same time that this soldier took over.

"We subsequently discovered that it was being run by this man's partner and that he had been involved with the company from an early stage."

Further investigation with suppliers of this company established that items it claimed to have delivered to the PRI shop and which had then been stolen in the burglary had not been supplied in the quantities stated.

In April 2008 detectives arrested both the soldier and his partner on suspicion of conspiracy to defraud.

They were both interviewed and released on police bail, pending further inquiries, having claimed that all goods supplied to the PRI shop were checked for quantity and quality before invoices were submitted.

Detectives then called in an accountant from the Defence Fraud Analysis Unit to examine the paperwork for the PRI shop and the company run by the couple and highlight the discrepancies.

The suspects were further interviewed in February 2009 where the man claimed he had bought some of the items sold through the shop whilst deployed on duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He said whilst they were kept in the shop they were not part of the official stock but he had put them on the insurance claim so that they would not lose out.

DS Nixon said: "We were able to find other staff involved with the shop who could state they were not aware of any stock for sale which had not been sourced through its recognised suppliers.

"We were also able to prove that the suspect had not even been deployed in Afghanistan at the time that the burglary occurred.

"And we had evidence to show that the suspect was purchasing a large number of items from the company he and his partner were involved in which, had he dealt directly with the manufacturers, he could have bought at a considerably cheaper price.

"By including his partner's company in the supply chain it allowed them to increase the prices and make a profit to the detriment of the regimental funds."

In October 2009 both suspects were charged with nine counts of false accounting and two charges of theft. They appeared before Cardiff Crown Court for trial in September 2010 and were found guilty of numerous offences.

The man was convicted of one count of theft and six counts of false accounting. The woman was found guilty of seven counts of false accounting.

In November 2010 they were both given 32-week custodial sentences suspended for two years and told to carry out 250 hours of unpaid work to be completed within 12 months.

The MDP are now pursuing the pair for the recovery of their assets to compensate for the money defrauded.

DS Nixon said:

"This was a wide-ranging and complex investigation. There were several different strands to the deceptions and fraud that were being conducted.

"We initially became involved because of concerns about the insurance claim but soon uncovered further irregularities which required a great deal of evidence gathering and interviews to put together the whole picture.

"It's good to know that all the commitment and dedication of our officers has paid off."

DCPO Lee Maplesden (left) with Site Security Officer Major Andy Slack and SPO Inspr Paul Kerry

By Norman Hicks

Photographs by Paul Kemp

Unique policing MDP Corsham

The labyrinth of tunnels under the MOD communications centre at Corsham in Wiltshire is a legacy of decades of subterranean quarrying for the prized Bath or Cotswold stone, used to build many a chocolate box cottage in the West Country.

In wartime the cavernous tunnels played a vital role as a secret storage facility for both Army and Navy munitions and there is still evidence of this former use if you venture down to the dust-filled vaults today, as **TalkThrough** did in November.

Our guide for the tour was PC Lee Maplesden, chosen as MDP Defence Community Police Officer of the Year in 2010

and part of the current policing complement at Corsham.

He explained that, apart from their historic significance, the tunnels also represent a potential security risk, although the only incursions in recent years have been from over-enthusiastic war historians or pot-holers, or those just curious to see for themselves the extensive network of tunnels that they've probably read about on the internet. He said:

"Although unusual, the tunnels are part of our patch and we will respond to an incident here in just the same way that we would anywhere else on the site."

The DCPO has been in post for more than seven years, having worked in the area with the now defunct Area Policing Teams before that.

He is, therefore, regarded as something of an oracle on all things to do with MOD Corsham, as Site Security Officer Major Andy Slack confirmed when we met up with him in his office, accompanied by Lee and Senior Police Officer Inspr Paul Kerry, who has been in post since 2003.

Maj Slack said: "I only arrived here a few months ago and the advice I have received from these guys has been absolutely fantastic.

"The best tour I've had since I've been here was with Lee around the site. The history and knowledge he and the rest of the guys have got has been a great help to me."

Armed stand-offs and police dog searches are part of the MDP counter-terrorism response at Corsham

The major arrived at Corsham just as a £850 million re-build was reaching its final stages in readiness to house the various elements associated with DE&S Director of Information Systems and Services. This is the main lodger unit at Corsham and effectively MDP's principal customer there, although MDP officers work to the Head of Establishment's instructions.

Inspr Kerry explained:

"Our main tasking is to provide high visibility counter terrorism patrols – that is what we are here for. We also provide armed stand-off at the gates – and there are three sites to cover here – and we are also what is termed a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), although I prefer to use the description 'armed police containment team'.

"We have got some critical assets and they have been determined as requiring an armed response 24/7 and that is what we are here to do," said Inspr Kerry.

"Major Slack relies on us to provide policing and security and, if he needs any specialist help, will come to us. But generally he just lets us get on with what we are here to do, which is to give them a high standard of policing."

challenges at

CONTINUED . . .

Unique policing challenges at MDP Corsham

PC Dave Owers using the new laser speed camera, watched by Sergt Colin Payne

As well as the mobile patrols and armed stand-off provision, the station objectives for MDP Corsham include random vehicle and counter-terrorism searches and conducting speed checks on the roads that run through and around the MOD estate.

Sergt Colin Payne, one of two officers trained to use a new laser camera, acquired for use on public roads, explained the thinking behind the initiative. He said:

"Part of the job we do is to prevent hostile reconnaissance. We do that by doing our counter-terrorism patrolling, maintaining a high profile on armed stand-off and also, because we've got a lot of roads going around the site, we take control by carrying out speed checks.

"We're working with Wiltshire Constabulary to enforce traffic legislation on their behalf, using their fixed penalty system on the roads that go right beside our perimeter fence.

"That also enhances our counter-terrorism profile, in that it sends out a message that these roads are heavily policed and you may well get stopped for a minor traffic offence, which will therefore deter any hostile reconnaissance.

"Also, we are protecting MOD assets, as a lot of MOD personnel are moving on these roads to and from work, so by maintaining these road safety initiatives – speed, seat belts, use of mobile phones whilst driving – we're also protecting the MOD environment," he said.

As we continued our tour of MOD Corsham with PC Maplesden, the size of the policing task became obvious. Not only are there three separate sites to patrol, linked by a network of public roads, but there are 140 Service families' properties, again spread over different areas and each with their own problems, from low-level crime to anti-social behaviour and the usual difficulties over parking and dog fouling that you get on any urban development.

Although he reports for duty at the MDP Corsham police station each day, PC Maplesden mainly works out of a former NAAFI building within the Service Families' Area – left over from when the site was purely an RAF Base – which is now a thriving community centre, thanks largely to Lee's efforts, combined with those of Flt Lt Jane Hawthornthwaite, O/C Mil Admin at Corsham.

She explained the link: "One of my roles here at Corsham is to look after the welfare of not only the Service personnel, but also their families and to ensure that the unit engages with the wider community.

"With Lee based here outside the wire – a big part of the local community, both military and civilian – he and I have worked together to raise funds to refurbish and rejuvenate the community centre, to try to attract in not only the military families, but also the local population.

"It's somewhere to bring the kids, socialise a bit and, at the same time, if they're looking for any welfare provision, Lee knows how to put me in touch with the families to help them with whatever their problems might be."

RAF Central Funds provided a large sum of money towards the refurbishment, which has included installing double glazing throughout and upgrading the furniture. A fenced off outdoor play area, accessible from the building was also part of the project and, with more funds set to be released soon, Jane said that she and Lee were planning further improvements to increase the attractiveness of the centre to local families.

A thriving coffee shop and several local groups – for mums and toddlers for example – have also helped breathe new life into the centre.

The Army has also pitched in, with 10 Signal Regiment providing an internet computer and paying for the line rental for it and the Army Welfare Service paying for the centre's TV licence, she said.

Refreshed by a hot coffee, **TalkThrough**'s tour continued with a visit to the local school, where – as part of Defence Road Safety Week, which coincided with our visit – PC Maplesden conducted an impromptu check on the vehicles bringing pupils in, to make sure that seatbelts were being worn and, where necessary, booster seats were available and being used correctly.

Close to the school and within its catchment area, is a housing estate consisting of a mix of privately-owned, former council and Housing Association homes and often the source of some of the minor crime that occurs on the adjoining Service Families' Areas.

"I have a good working relationship with Wiltshire Police, especially with the local Neighbour-hood Policing Team," said Lee. "Our problems are their problems and vice versa.

"The officers who cover this area know where I am and will pop in once or twice a month for a chat about any issues we might be having at the time.

"I hold monthly drop-in clinics at the community centre, where everybody gets invited who has anything to do with the area, including Defence Estates, SSAFA, the HIVE from Colerne, as well as Wiltshire Police.

"I operate an open door policy as far as policing matters are concerned. I am always here and people know where to find me. That's one reason why I take such a lead role in keeping this facility operating effectively, even though it's not part of my core duties, it's in my best interests for it to stay open."

As the Defence Fire Service sets up its trailer outside the community centre for a day of safety education for local Service families – tied in to Defence Road Safety Week – we leave Lee to return to his busy role, ensuring that those same families feel reassured by having the full protection of the police service and especially the MDP around them and in their midst.

The final word goes to Major Slack: "The MDP guys are involved in everything from the mine security to Lee getting asked for assistance and advice on crime prevention.

"As we plan the future security strategy for this site, we are building our contingency plans with the advice and partnership of MDP, MGS and Defence Fire Service and hold weekly meetings, which have improved things vastly. The relationship I have with MDP is very good and it works well," he said.

It was a recurring theme we heard from all the people we met during our two-day visit to MDP Corsham.

PC Lee Maplesden and Flt Lt Jane Hawthornthwaite discuss their future plans for the community centre

Defence Comm
– catching villains at

By Patrick Nealon

Photograph by Paul Kemp

If you have the misfortune to be burgled, you probably think the chances of anyone being caught are slim. Local police are often stretched and many of us reluctantly accept that the police might just have a few more important crimes to tackle.

Not, however, if you live on the Blenheim Park Service Families' Area in Aldershot, where there was a spate of 17 burglaries on garages on the estate in August and September last year – in which thousands of pounds worth of families' possessions were stolen. As the burglaries continued, the more determined MDP Defence Community Police Officer PC Dave Osborne became to find the culprit. Frustrated by lack of evidence, Dave finally got his breakthrough one day in mid-September.

Having been called by a resident to the scene of an attempted but unsuccessful burglary, Dave at last found fingerprint evidence. The burglar had been disturbed and left behind fingerprints on the garage door. PC Osborne immediately made contact with his Hampshire Police colleagues to check them out. Two suspects were identified and the hunt was on.

DCPO Dave Osborne

PC Osborne acted promptly, arresting one suspect the next day in nearby Farnborough on suspicion of burglary. He was interviewed and bailed, pending preparation of charges. The other suspect was more elusive, but after making inquiries and finding out that Hampshire police had an interest in him for other alleged offences, Dave teamed up with PC Steve Court of Hampshire.

Together they decided on a joint approach. Several addresses were checked out, initially without result so Dave put the suspect's name on the Police National Computer (PNC) as wanted for questioning.

On Christmas Eve, Dave was off duty settling down to enjoy the holiday with his family when the

nunity Policing
Aldershot Garrison

phone rang. His suspect had been detained at Newcastle Airport trying to board a plane to Tenerife. A PNC check had revealed that he was wanted for questioning. PC Osborne immediately spent his Christmas Eve arranging for him to be arrested by Northumbria Police, and then transported to Aldershot where he spent Christmas in the cells.

Dave and his Hampshire colleagues then interviewed the suspect at Aldershot police station. He admitted a string of burglary offences at Blenheim Park, and Hampshire Police questioned him about other offences including breach of bail and handling stolen goods. By the time the interview was done and due process followed, he was ready to be charged at 3am. He was detained overnight, appeared in court the next day and pleaded guilty.

The magistrates remanded him to Winchester Crown Court for sentencing at a later date.

In the meantime, the other suspect breached his bail but is likely to find it difficult to evade arrest while there is a PNC entry outstanding against him.

Dave Osborne told **TalkThrough**: "The Blenheim Park residents endured a lot, and there is some satisfaction now that we have made these arrests. The rash of burglaries was demoralising, apart from anything else, because we lacked evidence. We took full advantage of our lucky break and I can't speak too highly of PC Steve Court, one of Hampshire Police's finest. His commitment and energy was there throughout, standing with me all the way."

Said Inspr Darrell Barber, Head of Community Safety at MDP HQ:

"Our community police officers are usually singleton posts, but it's striking how much you get out of one officer who is dedicated to the Garrison and not pulled away on other priorities. Dave Osborne's result at Aldershot is a great example. Supporting Service families as part of the military covenant is one of the primary roles of our community police officers and sometimes it can make all the difference to the morale of a community."

CID SUCCESS

Forgeries exposed by detectives

A former naval rating has been placed on a curfew following an MDP CID investigation into the theft of MOD funds.

Detectives from HMNB Portsmouth had begun an investigation into the woman, after concerns were raised about claims she had submitted for hire cars.

Inquiries by officers established that she had forged signatures on documents so she could obtain hire cars for her own personal use.

She was interviewed in October 2008 and subsequently summonsed to appear before Fareham Magistrates Court to face 20 counts of fraud by false representation.

The case was subsequently sent to Portsmouth Crown Court for trial and the charges were amended to six indictment counts.

She appeared before the court on Tuesday 4 January 2011 and admitted to the offences of fraud by false representation against her.

She was sentenced at the same hearing to a 12-month supervision order, to include three months on an electronic curfew tag, between the hours of 9pm and 8am.

She was also ordered to pay court costs of £1,500.

Detective Constable Yvonne Parr, who carried out the investigation, said:

"The MDP's mission is to help ensure that MOD funds are spent as they should be. By defrauding the Department of this cash the offender was depriving the Navy of the resources it needs to operate. We will continue to rigorously investigate such allegations as part of the MOD's zero tolerance approach to such criminal behaviour."

By Norman Hicks

Photographs by
Paul Kemp

Joint police patrols for Colchester Day of Action

Ministry of Defence Police officers joined colleagues from Royal Military Police and the Essex County Force on joint patrols, as part of a 'Day of Action' community safety initiative in the southern half of the Garrison town of Colchester.

Organised through the Safer Colchester Partnership, of which MDP is a member, the event also involved Colchester Borough Council, Colchester Youth Services, Essex County Council, the Probation Service, DVLA, RSPCA and others.

The South Colchester district includes the Service Families' Area (SFA) at the Garrison, as well as the adjoining Shrub End Local Authority Estate.

The Day of Action began with enforcement action by Essex Police to execute outstanding arrest warrants and to target known addresses (not on the MOD estate). The Musket Club – used by Service families – became a focal point and drop-in centre throughout the day and was also where the MDP's Force Display Vehicle (FDV) was located for the event.

Sergt Eric Hirons, Defence Community Policing Supervisor (East Anglia), based at Colchester, and a former Senior Police Officer at the garrison, told **TalkThrough**:

"Policing of the MOD estate on the day was left to MDP and RMP, although we also conducted joint patrols on the estate with Essex Police and RMP, with the aim of raising our profile.

"We carried out road safety speed checks, parking enforcement at both primary schools in the area, as well as high profile foot and mobile patrols throughout the day.

"We also deployed the FDV as a focal point in the centre of the Service Families' Area, for people to come and visit us and find out what it was all about, what the MOD Police do, why we are here and what the Day of Action and the subsequent three months of follow-up actions are all about."

Non police activities involved Community Service personnel from the Ministry of Justice removing graffiti and re-painting the underpass used by children attending a nearby school. Rubbish clean-ups also took place on and off the MOD estate.

Colchester Garrison is currently host to 16 Air Assault Brigade, which had been deployed to Afghanistan at the time of the Day of Action last November.

"This means that most families are without their husbands and fathers, which leaves the families feeling vulnerable," said Eric.

"That is why the timing of this event was so appropriate from our point view, allowing us to raise our profile with the Service community here. Even though the local MDP officers do a great job and are in the community all the time, there are always people who do not understand why we are here.

"This event has given us the chance not only to raise MDP's profile, but to raise reassurance levels for people in the Defence community in general, showing how we work together with Essex Police and the RMP, that we're all pulling in the same direction to their advantage."

Colchester-based DCPOs Tony Welham and Phil Hook-Child were augmented by officers from the Divisional Support Group and dog handler PC Bob Shaw – both based at RAF Alconbury – as well as PC Mick Smith, DCPO from RAF Wattisham for the event.

A popular feature of the day had been the visit to Montgomery School on the MOD estate of PC Shaw who, together with an Essex Police dog handler and their dogs had given the 200 pupils a demonstration of explosives and drugs searching.

Eric said: "From our point of view, the key people involved in making this event such a resounding success have been Garrison Commander Col Tom Fleetwood, who has taken a very high profile role, along with Major David Casey, the Station Staff Officer and Peter Carrington, co-ordinator of the Safer Colchester Partnership for the Borough Council, who has been a brilliant ally to us over the years."

The plan was to follow up the Day of Action with three months of additional multi-agency services, he said, with more litter and graffiti cleaning, combined with other community safety activities in the pipeline, some built around Defence Road Safety Week at the end of November.

Council teams, the police – including MDP – and supporting agencies would continue to work with local councillors, schools, businesses and volunteers to establish longer term solutions to community problems.

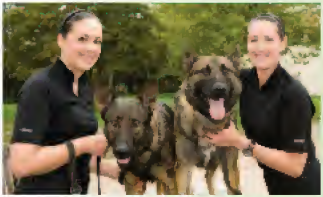
Chief Inspector Lee Davies, Essex Police's District Commander for Colchester, said:

"This is about us doing our part for the Army families who may have loved ones away at the moment. I'm pleased that we're able to offer our support in this way and I'm proud of how successful the day has been."

News from the MDP Dog Section

By Judith Slater

Photographs by Paul Kemp



Eyes front!

Pictured left to right are PC Alex Fulton with Ambra and PC Claire Don with Bella. The MDP bred Malinoise dogs are now a year old and are ready to start their training in earnest.

PCs Fulton and Don are the first female dog handlers to qualify at HMNB Clyde for 14 years. Although not the first female dog handlers to work within MDP, it is hoped that more female officers will see this as a job they'd like to take up.

Give us a leg up then!

A very rumbustious litter of German Shepherd dogs: just a few of the eight puppies trying their hardest to take on the world.

The eight puppies, known as the Camelot litter, were born in mid-June last year and have been adopted by the MDP Dog Section. They have now all been placed with puppy walkers until, when 16 months old, they will return to Wethersfield for their initial General Purpose Police Dog (GPPD) course.

The litter are Rufus, Saxon, Elsa, Axel, Valda, Heidi, Karla and Zara.

The photographer said 'Lift'!

Trying to maintain a composure, from left to right back row are: Mrs. Lyndsey Barber (HQ Dog Section), PC Andy Coultish (RAF Menwith Hill), PC Alex Fulton (HMNB Clyde), PC Pete Williams (HQ Ops Support), PC Jack Gillies (RNAD Coulport), Inspr Bruce McMurchy (Agency Dog Officer); front row: PS Matt Busby (HQ Ops Support) and PC Claire Don (HMNB Clyde).

Family pet is now top police dog . . .

Lee and Cindy Dyer with their two children, Mayer (age 7) and Eilah, were reunited once again with an old family friend during a family visit to RNAS Yeovilton.

Their visit was an auction prize for the Wallace and Gromit Appeal, which is a charity raising money for the Bristol Children's Hospital. The Air Station had offered a prize for the auction of "A Day with the Fleet Air Arm", which included a behind the scenes visit to the active airfield and a ticket to the Fleet Arm Museum.

For Lee's family their prize had another real bonus, as Yeovilton is now the home of their family dog, Milly, who needed a new home and is now a fully trained and hard-working Police Dog with the MOD Police.

Milly and her new handler, PC Simon Clark, were delighted to meet her "extended" family and show off her expertise as one of the MOD Police Dogs responsible for security at RNAS Yeovilton. PC Clark said: "It was great to meet Milly's family, and for them to see how happy she is in her new home and as a first class Police Dog."

Cdr Richard Seymour, the Community Relations Officer said:

"The Air Station always tries to help support charities when we can, and the Wallce and Gromit Appeal is an especially deserving one for children. In this case, it was marvellous being able to reunite a family with their dog and for them to see her so contented and doing a great job!"

Pictured are Lee and Lucinda Dyer (holding Eilah), with 7 year old Mayer with Milly and Handler PC Simon Clark.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Naval Base stays open despite protest

A planned anti-nuclear demonstration took place outside the main gates at HMNB Devonport from 6am on 1st November 2010, with the express aim of blocking and closing the dockyard.

MDP and Devon and Cornwall Police lock-on and public order units cleared all obstructions, making 12 arrests in the process.

Access to the Naval Base was maintained at all times.

Photo by DC Mike Watson, Devonport CID SOCO and Forensic Support

Spies at Wethersfield

A film crew visited MDPHQ Wethersfield in November to film scenes for a forthcoming production of the John Le Carre novel 'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy'.

Using the runway of the former USAF Base, a light aircraft repeatedly took off and landed for the scenes, which will feature in the final film probably due for release later this year.

The filming was part of the MDP's 'wider markets' initiative for Wethersfield, under which facilities at the site will be used to generate extra income.

Photo by Paul Kemp

Pull a plane for BLESMA Charity

THE TASK: to pull a VC 10 aircraft over a set distance and raise £20,000 for the British Limbless Ex Servicemens Association (BLESMA) from sponsorship of 20 teams. Those competing came from the RAF, Wiltshire Police and a solo representative of MDP, PC Jarra Brown, DCPO.

Inspr Steve Cox, Wiltshire Police, Wootton Bassett insisted there should be a combined team of his Force and MDP – an excellent working relationship already being in place due to joint efforts relating to Repatriations. Chief Inspr Dave Watson, based at Porton Down, who has attended a few Repatriations, kindly raised a substantial amount of money, with the help of his staff

BLESMA was started around 75 years ago, giving hope to seriously maimed soldiers. They provide convalescent homes in Blackpool and Scotland and also arrange trips for various sports such as skiing and fishing.

Most importantly, it is through their care that soldiers with life-changing injuries are given hope.

New fitness testing regime

. . . trialled by a select few volunteer MDP Firearms officers

By Judith Slater
Photographs by Paul Kemp

Eamon Keating, National Chair of the Defence Police Federation, explained how this novel way of testing for fitness was being carried out and what lay behind it.

He explained it this way: "We sought volunteers from as wide a range of MDP roles to undergo this initial fitness trial, being run over two days at Headquarters. Our Circular 33/10 provoked a good response and we selected a good cross-section out of the high number of volunteers."

In your last paragraph of DPF Circular 33/10 you say, "this in no way infers that the DPF are agreeing to a change in our members' Terms and Conditions of Service." How does this work?

"Going back, the idea for this came from the Chief Constable's and the MOD's aspirations that we as a Force clearly demonstrate that our officers are capable of the roles they are appointed to.

"If a form of testing were introduced, say on an annual basis, then that would require a change in the Conditions of Service held by our firearms officers.

"What we, the Federation, at this stage have agreed to is an examination of this test to see if it is viable and, if so, we would then look to negotiate with the MOD and our Chief Constable for a way in which this could be incorporated into our existing and future Members' Conditions of Service."

Eamon explained that currently there is no requirement for an officer to submit to a test of physical ability at any time in their employment as a police officer, other than during their initial Recruit phase, although there are currently some fitness assessments which apply to highly specialist roles within the police service.

However, this new test under review is designed, if viable, to apply to all police officers in the MDP, regardless of role or rank.

How are trials being devised? Who is involved?

"The Chief Constable called together a meeting where all interested parties, including the DPF, representatives from the Review into Terms and Conditions of Service from the MOD, and Firearms and Professional Development Representatives discussed the issues. What came out of this was a 'without prejudice' agreement to devise a trial with members of the

CONTINUED . . .

New fitness testing regime

Firearms Training, Professional Development and DPF working together. It was they who designed the two-day assessment.

"Several issues arose including, for example, how to physically exert officers in such a manner that they all arrive at the 'finish line' at the same time. This is incredibly important as the qualifying part of the test will be a live shoot and, in order to ensure that this is carried out safely, it is essential that the safety staff are able to manage the range in an ordered, structured, safe manner. Having officers complete the first part of the test at different times could create an environment where live firearms are in use that could be dangerous.

"Different types of exertions were examined; the trial is so designed as to test which version is more appropriate to the officers' real working environment.

"In order to demonstrate our commitment to the trial, we the Federation offered to seek volunteers."

What has been the response so far? From what areas of MDP roles are the volunteers drawn?

"The response has been exceptional. Officers who have spoken to the Federation see the merit in this type of examination. The volunteers have currently been drawn from authorised firearms roles across the country from varying age groups in order to attempt to get a realistic result. None of the volunteers have been drawn from our specialist units. Operational Support selected 12 officers from the pool of around 40 volunteers.

"The test and its results will be carried out without any come-back to the officers, regardless of their performance. The Federation is extremely grateful to all those who volunteered and we are encouraged by the professional and mature way in which our members have responded to the issue of fitness assessment."

Do you have any other comments about the future?

"The Federation continually asserts that our officers are trained to meet the national standards which are applicable to all officers in their roles. We do, however, appreciate that this test, if viable, would generate a tangible evidence trail for our customers and ourselves."

ACC Professional Development, John Bligh, backs this trial as a sign of progress for the future of the Force. He was asked to explain the benefits:

"Nationally, the Police Service debate about "fitness for role", particularly in respect of firearms officers, has been ongoing for over a quarter of a century to my certain knowledge, without satisfactory resolution.

The current Multi Stage Fitness Testing regime is geared to bringing officers to the point of exhaustion, as a measure of their cardio-vascular capacity and strength, but does not encompass the capability to deliver the police response, in this case, make legally challenging judgments and, if absolutely necessary, use a lethal weapon effectively to negate or mitigate a deadly threat.

The trial was the "pilot" to ascertain the feasibility of an MDP "Fitness Integrated Test" (FIT), which will incorporate all the necessary elements and provide a far more comprehensive assurance of fitness for role to the customer and the wider Service.

The involvement of the DPF and enthusiastic participation of the volunteers, who have suggested a number of most helpful enhancements, as well as being keen to remain a part of the development process, has been crucial. They and the staff who devised and supervised the trial have demonstrated a high level of professionalism, which I am confident will lead to a pragmatic and relevant testing regime, custom-built to MDP requirements which, ultimately, others may wish to consider in seeking the solution to the "fitness for role" conundrum that has eluded the Service for so long."

High visibilit
top event

By Chief Inspr Ron Durkin

Photographs by Neil Parry

More than 28,000 visitors flocked to Portsmouth Naval Base for the three-day 'Meet Your Navy' event, which was judged a big success, thanks in part to the professional policing operation mounted by MDP.

Chief Inspr Ron Durkin was one of two Silver Commanders for the event and was also the event liaison officer with the Royal Navy – the other being Superintendent Kevin McAndrew.

Planning started in early 2010, with the MDP policing operation being planned and co-ordinated by Inspr Julie Vaughan and Sergt Andy Lloyd. Inspr Vaughan also acted as the 'on the ground' Bronze Commander for the three days.

Sergt Lloyd liaised with the Home Office Scientific Development Branch, who once again provided Andrew Heron and his team to operate and maintain the security screening equipment that was vital to the safety and security of the event.

MDP officers policed the event and, although we only had a small contingent of officers for this operation, they were highly visible among the crowds and built up a great rapport with the public, with Navy personnel and with those manning the stalls and displays.

The MDP conducted a joint policing operation with the Royal Naval Service Police to provide enhanced policing and security for the event.

MDP officers dealt with everything professionally and practically – there were very few incidents and those that we had were not allowed to escalate, thanks to the skills of MDP officers. The Marine Unit worked tirelessly to keep the harbour safe, especially during the air shows and the dynamic displays and also maintained the integrity of the secure areas as part of their normal patrols.

y policing at

Organised jointly by the Royal Navy and by the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, visitors took advantage of the chance to glimpse behind the scenes of the Naval Base past and present.

Royal Navy ships from the modern fleet were open to the public, there were re-enactments of historic drills and musket-firing displays, as well as demonstrations of Tudor cooking in a replica of the Mary Rose's galley.

Two of the Royal Navy's new Type 45 destroyers – HMS Dauntless and HMS Diamond and RFA Largs Bay were open to the public as well as a number of other warships, the two Type 45 destroyers drawing the largest crowds and visitors.

On the water the harbour displays also proved popular with crowds lining ships' decks to see a fast-roping assault by 40 Commando Royal Marines and a search and rescue demonstration by the Royal Navy's 771 Squadron.

A highlight of each day was the closing ceremony performed by Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band. On completion of their arena event they marched down the main thoroughfare playing stirring tunes and followed by a Samba band and thousands of spectators.

The event was a huge success and this was, in no small way, made possible by the willing commitment and enthusiasm of MDP and their close co-operation with the Meet Your Navy team, to ensure that the entire event passed off without any significant incident.

Commodore Rob Thompson, Naval Base Commander, said:

"Navy Days was a huge success. The event proved an exciting opportunity to show the general public the wide role of the Royal Navy and what its men and women are up to across the globe – from taking the fight to the Taliban in Afghanistan to countering pirates in the Gulf of Aden."

Support group for Po

MDP officers are playing a leading role in the national Police Firearms Officers' Association and are keen to recruit more of their colleagues to join them.

Co-ordinator for Defence police officers is PC Karl Smith, firearms instructor, based at MDP Bacton. He told **TalkThrough** that the PFOA had been set up by two Metropolitan Police officers following a high profile shooting incident in which the officers concerned felt let down by existing support networks.

He said: "It is an association for people who have a unique job and a unique role, offering support to the officers and their families in the event of a firearms incident or even if a member has other issues in their life not firearms related.

"As MDP is one of the largest firearms Forces in the UK we think membership of the PFOA can only be of benefit to our MOD Police colleagues," he said.

Since forming the MDP offshoot of the PFOA, he and Met transferee PC Ben Lacey – a counselling expert – have been working closely with Defence Police Federation chairman Eamon Keating, who has given the Association the Federation's full backing.

PC Smith said that the PFOA is an independent Association. "We aim to provide additional support to that already given by the Police Service and the Police Federation, whether it is additional counselling for officers and their families, financial support, or just people to speak with who have had similar experiences to their own.

"The MOD currently has members scattered around the country and we would like to see more join and get the benefits."

PFOA
POLICE FIREARMS OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Assistance given by the PFOA

Examples of assistance given to date by the Association include providing private counselling for an officer involved in a fatal shooting and also for his wife; specialist support for an officer having to give evidence at an inquest; help with funeral costs for an officer and family following the death of a daughter and sister; helping with specialist child care for a seriously ill officer, to enable him and his wife to get some rest during his recovery, and Red Letter days or trips out for other officers and their families caught up in stressful work-related incidents. None of these examples relate to MDP officers, but show the type of support available to members.

Aims and objectives

The PFOA:

- **Is a non-profit making, non-political, non-confrontational Association**
- **Is funded by member subscriptions, fundraising and donations**
- **Is a support Association for firearms officers, ex firearms officers, other officers of any rank involved in police firearms operations and their families**
- **Sits in the background behind the Police Service and Police Federation**
- **When requested will assist a member and his/her family**
- **Will assist the Police Service and Police Federation if called upon**
- **Aims to support and reassure its members following a work related incident, which may have affected them or their families, and will also consider any other requests for assistance**
- **Will use its vast network of contacts nationally to assist its members should they and their families wish to meet and speak to other officers involved in similar incidents which have caused distress or worry.**

Frequently asked questions

1. Who runs the PFOA?

An executive committee, with a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and five other committee members. The PFOA office is located in Cambridgeshire. It uses a PO Box for privacy and its phone number is ex directory. It has one part-time member of staff.

2. Who can join, and what type of memberships' are there?

Any serving or former firearms officer can join as full members. Any officers of whatever rank involved in other aspects of firearms operations, for example Strategic, Tactical, Operational Firearms Commanders and Post Incident Managers, can join as Associate members and would be entitled to the same benefits as the full members. Any other person wishing to support firearms officers would be an affiliate member, but would not receive the benefits of full/associate members.

lice Firearms Officers

MOD co-ordinator for the PFOA, PC Karl Smith (left) sets out his stall at the MDP HQ canteen

3. How much does it cost?

Full and Associate members £4 per month (£48 per year). Affiliate members £20 per year.

4. Where does my membership fee go?

Simply to assist Firearms Officers and their families. The Association is non-profit making. Contact the MDP Co-ordinator for membership details.

5. What about my anonymity and confidentiality?

The executive committee and all Co-ordinators are serving or retired Police Firearms Officers. Members' privacy and confidentiality are the PFOA's priority and it does not share personal information with any other party or organisation, or individual. Neither does it ask for home addresses or phone numbers, other than on the Gift Aid form, which is sent to HM Inland Revenue.

6. How do I contact the Association if I need it?

You will be given details of the Association address and contact numbers, including the personal mobile numbers of Mark Williams and Mick Burke, who are both serving firearms officers. There will also be co-ordinators in each Force area to liaise with you.

PFOA Contact details

Contact details for PC Karl Smith, MDP PFOA Coordinator are:

Mobile: 07552 668808
Email: karl@pfoa.co.uk

MOD diversity champion visits HQ

MOD Race and Ethnicity Champion, Steve McCarthy (left), with MDPGA Diversity and Equality Unit Head, David Hubbard

During a visit to MDP HQ Wethersfield, Steve McCarthy, DE&S Change Director and the MOD Race and Ethnicity Champion attended a focus group of the Agency Support Group for Minority Ethnic Staff (ASME).

Vic Christopher, chair of ASME, briefed Mr McCarthy on the group's background and led a general discussion on diversity-related issues.

Asked if he thought the Strategic Defence and Security Review and MOD cutbacks would harm the diversity agenda, Mr McCarthy said: "We have to make sure they don't. When the Department is reorganising itself, it is as good a time as any to look at all the ways we work, not just with a view to cutting costs, but to try to improve the quality of working here and I think that is as big an opportunity for the diversity agenda as it is for everything else."

Long Service and Good Conduct Medal for Head of ABS

T/Chief Supt Dave Long, Head of Agency Business Services, has been presented with his Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal by Chief Constable Steve Love, in recognition of more than 26 years' unblemished service.

Educated at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Wakefield, West Yorkshire and after a brief career in the metal industry, Dave joined MDP in 1984, serving first at RAF Caerwent, before moving to RAF Menwith Hill as a Constable in September 1985.

After service at RO Radway Green (on promotion to Sergeant), HQ Hereford Garrison, the Police Training Centre – now College – (as Inspector and MDP's first Head of Driver Training), and at HMNB Clyde (Chief Inspr, later T/Supt), Dave returned to his Yorkshire roots in September 2004, as Superintendent SPO back at RAF Menwith Hill.

He was given the rank of T/Chief Supt, Divisional Commander NE Division, in July 2007, remaining in post until July 2010 when he moved to MDPHQ Wethersfield to take up his current posting.

Between 2007 and 2010, in his capacity as NE Div Cmdr, he had command responsibility for the overview (on behalf of ACCDO) of USVF operational issues and the operational development of the new Critical National Infrastructure Protection task on the two gas processing and distribution plants situated within his Division.

He also ensured that MDP NPIA Firearms Accreditation maintained a high profile for continuous professional development within the Division.

In his role as head of ABS, T/Supt Long has had responsibility for the review of HQ functions as part of the MDP response to the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Treble delight for PS Malcolm Ashby

Sergt Malcolm Ashby had cause for a treble celebration in November, when Chief Constable Steve Love presented him with a commendation certificate – to mark his outstanding contribution to police training in Afghanistan – and two medals, the Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and the Afghanistan Operational Service Medal, surrounded by family members and MDP colleagues.

The citation on the CC's Commendation Certificate said that it had been awarded to Malcolm:

"For your outstanding professionalism and personal contribution under challenging circumstances to formulating and delivering the initial Afghan National Police recruits' course at the Interim Helmand Police Training Course during your deployment to Afghanistan. Your work exemplifies the high standards and levels of service provided by the Ministry of Defence Police."

Malcolm joined the MDP in 1985, serving for five years in a uniformed role at Royal Ordnance Factory Waltham Abbey. He then completed various roles within the CID at Colchester Garrison, the Fraud Squad and the Force Surveillance Unit. From June 2003 to June 2005 Malcolm served in Kosovo as part of UNMIK, working in a number of roles including the Prishtina Regional Crime Squad and UNMIK Prishtina Regional Press and Media Officer.

Upon his return to the MDP, he qualified as an MDP trainer at the Agency Training Centre. His ambition was to take on the International Police training role and in February 2008 Malcolm was given responsibility for training serving and retired police officers and the occasional civilian selected for international missions with the UN and EU.

Following a reorganisation within IPSO in May 2009, he also assumed the role of office manager with responsibility for the day-to-day running of the IPSO office and management of the staff who provide support to police officers serving abroad.

He told **TalkThrough**: "I served with the MDP contingent working in Afghanistan in support of Op Herrick from November 2009 and was deployed on a six month operational tour in Helmand. My initial role in theatre was that of a trainer at the Helmand Police Training Centre and subsequently as a mentor at the Helmand Provincial Afghan National Police HQ in Lashkar Gah. I was also appointed as the MDP Deputy Contingent Commander.

"On my return to the MDP in May 2010, I resumed my role as IPSO office manager and I am currently working with the Stabilisation Unit based in Central London in the capacity of desk officer responsible for police and civilians deployed to various overseas missions."

Key role for MDP at Poppy Appeal . . .

The launch of the Royal British Legion's 90th national Poppy Appeal took place at Colchester Garrison at the end of October, featuring all-girl pop band The Saturdays, and attracting widespread public and media interest.

Well before launch day MDP officers were involved in planning the security arrangements for the event, which was based around the Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium inside the Garrison.

On the day, an MDP Search Team conducted a thorough check of the premises and surrounding area, which were declared sterile ahead of the briefing of MOD and Essex Police officers involved in the policing operation.

Inspr Tom Huntley from OSU South carried out the role of Bronze Commander and linked in closely with the Essex Police Silver Commander throughout the day.

Sergt Eric Hirons, North East Division Community Policing Supervisor, based at Colchester, said the MDP policing operation had a number of strategic objectives.

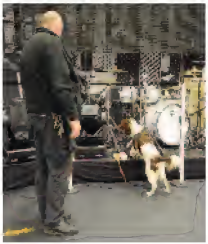
He said: "We set out to assist our stakeholder partners in facilitating the national launch, working in partnership with HM Forces and event organisers.

"Our strategic aims were to:

- **provide reassurance to the community and deter offences through a hi-visibility, proportionate policing and security presence**
- **minimise risk to those attending the event**
- **contribute effectively to the security profile of the Garrison**
- **engage with the community throughout the event to ensure an effective flow of communication relating to policing and security matters**
- **prevent and detect criminal offences and gather evidence to support any prosecutions and**
- **lawfully, to gather and develop intelligence relating to criminal matters.**

"All these aims and objectives were met and, overall, not only was it a positive event for our stakeholders and partners, generating national publicity for such a worthwhile cause, but it was also a very successful policing operation," he added.

There was a special focus during the launch event on providing support for the injured, wounded and bereaved members of the 'Afghan generation' of British Armed Forces.



t launch of national

Chart-topping pop sensations The Saturdays performed a concert for families and personnel of 16 Air Assault Brigade which was then on combat operations in Afghanistan. To start the event, Jump 4 Heroes, The Royal British Legion's Extreme Human Flight Team, provided a spectacular display of wing suit flight and precision guidance under red and white poppy canopies.

Emma-Jayne Webster, the fiancée of a young soldier killed in Afghanistan in 2009, and Gunner Mark Stonelake, a soldier who lost a leg fighting in Afghanistan, also attended the launch. Both featured on the 2010 Poppy Appeal posters displayed across the UK and on national television adverts.

Colchester Garrison is the future home to one of four Personnel Recovery Centres being built by the MOD in partnership with Help for Heroes and The Royal British Legion, who will help support the running of the centres in partnership with the British Army in the future. The Legion will also build, equip and operate the Battle Back Challenge Centre for adventure training and adaptive sports. Both projects will cost the Legion at least £25m.

Legion National President, Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely, said:

"The Royal British Legion is the leading UK charity providing direct, practical support to the British Armed Forces heroes and their families. The past nine years of conflict have increased the need for our help, both today and for years to come."

With the assistance of British Forces Broadcasting Service (BFBS), the Poppy Appeal launch also arranged for video messages from soldiers serving with 16 Air Assault Brigade to be relayed to some 800 family members watching from inside the Corporal Budd VC Gymnasium.

Essex-born member of The Saturdays, Frankie Sandford, said: "It's great to be back in Essex performing for the families living at Colchester Garrison. I really admire and respect our Armed Forces and their families, I think what they do is incredible."

Anglo American

Agency staff from United States Visiting Forces (USVF) stations recently attended a bespoke table-top exercise (TTX) at RAF Fairford.

The event was held over two days and was attended by approximately 70 support staff and delegates. The aim of the exercise was to test the roles, interoperability and co-operation of key stakeholders in response to a given set of policing and security scenarios in a US Visiting Forces context.

The event was commissioned by the United States Visiting Forces Security Committee (USVFSC). This committee is chaired by the Head of Defence Security, and is responsible for coordinating the MOD's response to lawful protest and any threats posed by extremist activity to those bases and facilities that have been made available to USVF. Part of this coordination is to encourage exercising and testing of policing and security organisations charged with the protection of US facilities.

Organisation of the TTX was facilitated by the formation of a small working group made up of representatives from Defence Security (Def Sy), Headquarters 3rd Air Force USVF, Air Command, MDP Div Ops, and MDP Western and North East Divisions. The working group was supported and guided by the MDP Exercise Planning Team. The exercise director was Supt Dave Pawley who is currently on secondment with Defence Security in the MOD's Directorate of Business Resilience.

The scenario was based on the stand-up of a military operation at RAF Fairford although the issues addressed were generic enough to be applicable to all USVF stations. The exercise scenario addressed the potential disruptive challenges that could impact on the operational output of a USVF military base, and drew on multi-agency capabilities and expertise in the same manner as a real event.

The exercise was aimed at operational, tactical and planning personnel who have an interest in policing and guarding USVF locations within the UK, as well as interested parties from organisations and other specialist departments. Although its main theme was 'interoperability',

the event specifically addressed key issues such as mutual aid/support processes, information and intelligence sharing, jurisdiction, use of force and human rights (including the use of firearms), national counter terrorism initiatives (Op Fairway, Op Lightning etc), arrest procedures and processes, and media handling.

The exercise was ably facilitated by Chief Supt Rob Hoblin, who ensured all attendees were fully involved through continuous interaction. The exercise format centred around five syndicates representing each of the main USVF locations in the UK. Each syndicate consisted of representatives from different organisations at each of the sites including five Home

Interoperability is 'Match Fit'

Photographs by Neil Parry

Department Police Forces. In addition there were specialist syndicates, with representatives from other key stakeholder groups including Def Sy, MDP Special Branch, USVF Office of Special Investigations, MOD Guard Service, MOD Central Legal Services, USVF legal, and corporate communications media departments.

Expressions of interest to attend the event were also received from ACPO TAM, North East CTU, NPOIU, RIAT and the Olympics Exercise Planning Team. However, due to a short notice change of event location, many of these stakeholders were unable to attend.

After each scenario inject the syndicates were given ten minutes to discuss a number of questions and how each organisation represented would consider their response. This was followed by a plenary session during which syndicates were given the opportunity to share their responses with all other syndicates. This invariably led to additional questions and answers from facilitators and delegates. Upon completion of this discussion phase, subject matter experts were invited to provide a short presentation on areas covered during each of the five phases.

Mr Tim Hershberger, M/Sgt Rick Schlachter and Inspr Ralph Phillips provided an overview of the function of RAF Fairford and policing and security operations at the airbase. D/Sergt Paul Jones, Matthew Brigham (OSI), and Mark Sully (NPOIU) gave an interesting overview of national and local station intelligence processes. The legal input given by Rebecca Hinton (MOD CLS) and Dave Feehan (USVF LA) was particularly thought provoking for all present.

Chief Inspr Tony Penfold gave an overview of the recently established MDP Host Nation patrols with Inspr Darrell Barber describing the Security Vigilance Area process and its effectiveness in community engagement and intelligence gathering. Finally, Steve Partridge (MDP Corporate Communications) and Kate Nelmes (Gloucestershire Constabulary media department), provided an extremely enlightening presentation on media strategies and the police relationship with the press.

Throughout the two days all delegates were asked to complete a de-briefing feedback form, the comments from which were subsequently used during a structured de-brief based on the NPIA de-briefing model. The formal de-brief was facilitated by Inspr Terry Moody, and Sergt Brian McConnell (both MDP Menwith Hill) at MDPGA HQ. Inspr Moody said: "The final report and action matrix will be presented to the USVFSC, so that any learning can be developed and best practice shared by the key stakeholders."

At the conclusion of the event, the exercise Director, Dave Pawley, stated:

"Based on the level of positive feedback I have received from many of the participants, I believe the event was a resounding success with excellent participation by all attendees. The event was held in the most economical manner and at this time of financial austerity it represented good value for money when taken against the significant learning and interaction between all agencies, and the overall contribution to operational preparedness."

One of the USVF delegates commented that this event was "probably the best exercise" he had ever attended during his lengthy tour in the UK.

Chief Constable's Fund – How to Apply

Anyone currently working for the MDP can confidentially apply for a grant or interest-free loan from the Chief Constable's Fund.

The fund provides financial assistance to both serving and ex members of the Force and any member of the civilian support staff employed by the MDP, should they suffer any form of hardship or distress. Over the years, loans and grants have been used to help staff through personal crises.

It can also provide financial aid to any other person that the committee deems to be a suitable recipient.

Grants are also allocated to the Divisional Commanders – this is known as the Divisional Commander's Fund – and is mainly used by Divisions to provide suitable hospitalities, for example, during medal ceremonies or for the presentation of memorabilia to guests of the Agency.

Historically, the Chief Constable's Fund was known as the Welfare Fund but it has been known by its current title since 1993. It was set up using non-public funds to assist MOD Police officers and civilian support staff. It should not be confused with the MDP Fund, which is a contributory fund providing life assurance to its members.

In the past, the committee was run entirely by police officers, the post of Secretary/Treasurer being undertaken by the Chief Constable's office. However, some time ago, the committee membership was re-formed to include representation by civilian staff.

The Committee is comprised of:

CHAIR

VICE CHAIR

TREASURER

CIVILIAN SUPPORT STAFF MEMBER

POLICE MEMBER

DEFENCE POLICE FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE

A percentage of the money raised by the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's monthly lottery is earmarked to help finance the Fund. Occasionally donations are received from members of the public in appreciation of the services received from the MDP.

Grant applications cannot be given for private medical care, but the committee may consider offering an interest-fee loan if deemed appropriate.

If any officer/employee of the Ministry of Defence Police is undergoing a difficult time, they can access the Fund application form on the Chief Constable's website, or alternatively on the G Drive under Forms/Templates/Applications/Chief Const Fund App.

Committee Secretary, Jacqueline Watson, would be pleased to offer any advice or assistance on Ext 4316 (94667/4316 01371 854316). Any inquiries will of course be treated with the strictest confidence.

MDP in the Media

Recent extracts from newspaper and magazine articles which have featured MDP

From: Portsmouth Today

Dramatic rescue after sailor falls from Navy ship

A young Navy sailor was dramatically plucked to safety by a police officer after falling overboard in freezing conditions.

The 19-year-old Able Seaman fell from HMS Diamond into Portsmouth Harbour while on duty in the early hours.

The water was so cold, the freezing sailor was unable to move as a Ministry of Defence Police launch crew fought to rescue him in sub-zero temperatures.

Fearing that the man was going to freeze to death, one police officer bravely removed his life jacket and dived into the sea to rescue the sailor, who was then taken ashore to a waiting ambulance.

Inspr Andy Acock, commander of the MOD Police Marine Unit, said: "He had no strength and hypothermia was not far off. We lowered the platform to get him on the boat but he was unable to assist himself at all. We gave him a rope to pull himself in but it wasn't happening."

Of the unnamed officer who jumped in to rescue the sailor, Inspr Acock said: "I've got nothing but praise for that officer. To dive in the water, especially at this time of year, is commendable and has saved this man's life. But it's part of the job and I'd like to think all my officers would have done the same had they been in that situation."

From: East Lothian News

Former paratrooper jailed for stealing medals

A former paratrooper has been jailed for three years in Northampton after he admitted stealing medals and body armour from the Armed Forces.

Simon Rogers, 29, formerly of 2 Parachute Regiment based in Colchester, stole medals awarded to four soldiers who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan and sold them on the online auction website eBay.

He was charged with the thefts in March, after Ministry of Defence Police raided a house near Corby, Northamptonshire and seized property belonging to the MOD. The medals were eventually recovered and returned to their owners.

Rogers also admitted stealing sets of body armour as well as illegally possessing ammunition and explosives, which were military pyrotechnics and detonators.

From: The Sun

MINESTOPPERS

- **Phoneline to thwart Taliban bombs**
- **Allied lives saved by tip-offs to 110**

Exclusive by David Willetts, Defence Correspondent in Helmand

A CRIMESTOPPERS phone line has been set up in Afghanistan so callers can report Taliban terror plots.

The service in Helmand is just like the one in Britain, but instead of taking calls about muggings and nuisance neighbours, Afghans dial 110 to report roadside bombs.

Since it started in January 2009, Minestoppers has foiled an attempt to explode a mine laid to kill Our Boys and foiled a kidnapping.

Thousands of calls are channelled through to just two brave Afghans on mobile phones. Their location and identities must remain secret because Taliban warlords keep threatening to behead them.

The service – pioneered by MOD Police Sergeant Ian Connolly – is about to operate 24/7 and the number of lines boosted to nine.

International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell said: "A better police service will help people feel safer as they go about their daily lives and help build a more stable and secure Afghanistan. That is good for Afghans and good for Britain."

From: Police Professional

MOD Police initiative helps cut crime

A special initiative led by the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) at HM Naval Base Clyde has led to an 80 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour among youngsters in the local area over the past year.

Officers teamed up with the NHS and other agencies to produce credit card-style USBs containing essential information which were handed out at the latest 'Blue Light Disco'.

MDP has been running its highly successful Blue Light Discos for three years, creating a safe, alcohol-free environment where youngsters can dance, listen to music and enjoy themselves without the threat of trouble.

MDP's PC Tracy Ross, who was involved in the project, explained: "The USB cards mean that kids don't need to search the Internet for information because it is all in one place. Around 1,500 of the cards have been made and the MDP has contributed £200 to their production – money raised at the Blue Light Discos.

"From MDP's point of view, it is a great initiative because it gives us a chance to educate the kids on crime prevention and how to avoid the dangers of alcohol, drugs and those who would wish to exploit them."

The cards include 34 individual pieces of information, such as advice on applying for jobs and opening a bank account, to dealing with bullying and staying safe online.

As part of the scheme, leaflets were handed out and the information was also stored as audio MP3 files so that users can listen to the advice and play it on mobile phones and MP3 players.

Well done,

From: **Sir William Patey KCMG, HM Ambassador British Embassy Kabul**

I am writing with reference to **Chief Inspector Dennis Jackson**, of your Force, who was seconded to the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTM-A) from January 2010 to October 2010.

During the 9 month period of his deployment Chief Inspector Jackson successfully performed the role of the NTM-A manager for the flagship police reform programs in Afghanistan, Focused District Development (FDD) and Directed District Development (D3). Additionally he professionally managed the coordination and facilitation of all aspects of NTM-A's support to these essential reform work streams. Furthermore Chief Inspector Jackson set high standards whilst performing the role of being the sole point of contact for coordination with the Afghan Ministry of Interior (MoI), ISAF Joint Command (IJC) and numerous other coalition partners, forging excellent relations with each of his stakeholders. Throughout his deployment, Chief Inspector Jackson's work was held in high regard by senior colleagues, both civilian and military.

Chief Inspector Jackson has at all times conducted himself to the highest standards and has proved a very worthy ambassador for UK policing in Afghanistan. I wish him, every success in the future.

From: **Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) M A Harding, Army Welfare Service**

I am writing to you (Sergt Nathaniel Gabriel-Lovell) as the Manager of the PCs at Windsor, namely **Sean Newman, Brandon Harman and John Wilson** and in specific about their assistance with a fundraising event we held here at Broom Farm on Sunday 28th November 2010.

The fundraising event was held for the Forces Children's Trust charity and involved many organisations such as the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, BFBS and the local bikers' clubs under the supervision of a local community warden, Stuart Hookway. There was room for error however this was all made easy by our local PCs Sean, Brandan and John who wholeheartedly joined in the planning and execution of the event – it would not have gone as smoothly without their presence and assistance and for that we thank them.

This is probably a good time for me to also recap on my first year in this post by saying how much we appreciate their presence here on the estate. They totally integrate themselves within the community and their constant presence acts as a huge reassurance to the Service community, but what makes them that little bit more special is their can do and WILCO attitude – they know everyone on the estate and have their trust which is hugely important.

From: **Sir William Patey KCMG, HM Ambassador British Embassy Kabul**

I am writing with reference to **Chief Inspector Avrina Montgomery**, of your Force, who was seconded to the NATO Training Mission – Afghanistan (NTM-A) from October 2009 to October 2010.

During her deployment, Chief Inspector Montgomery made an exceptional contribution to the training and development of the Afghan National Police and to the wider UK effort in police reform. Chief Inspector Montgomery very successfully led a multinational team of both military and police personnel, which designed and introduced key training programmes to develop the Afghan National Police. These included the ANP Professional Development Programme and courses for the Basic Patrolman and other ranks through to the level of Zone and Provincial Commander. In additional through Chief Inspector Montgomery's excellent initiative and vision she introduced the ANP to Gender Awareness training and provided specialist guidance for Family Abuse Investigation Units. Her efforts, rightly so in my opinion, have been recognised at the most senior levels as outstanding.

Chief Inspector Montgomery has at all times conducted herself to the highest standards and has proved a very worthy ambassador for UK policing in Afghanistan. I wish her every success in the future.

and thank you...

From: **Jerry Birks, Defence Estates Operations Housing, Woolwich**

Just a short note to thank you (**Sergt Nathaniel Gabriel-Lovell**) and your officers for the excellent service that you have all provided to both DE Ops Housing and to our joint customers, the service families, over the past months.

As the Housing Manager for Woolwich, Biggin Hill and Halstead, Kingston and the other outlying areas in South London, your attendance at local housing clinics and community action groups has enhanced the feeling of safety for both the community and individual families.

In addition, I feel that the partnering ethos that exists between our staff and yours has achieved considerable success, particularly in Woolwich where we have had to deal jointly with the problems of vandalism, asset stripping, squatters and fly-tipping, prior to the 2PWRR unit move.

Please pass on my sincere thanks to all your officers and I trust that our successes will continue in the next year for the benefit of the Service families.

From: **Air Commodore G J Bruce, Headquarters Air Command, Royal Air Force, High Wycombe**

A short note to express my gratitude for the tremendous support offered by the Ministry of Defence Police during the Battle of Britain 70th Anniversary commemorations.

Inspector Peter McDonald in particular played a pivotal role in ensuring that we were able to place a full-size replica Spitfire on the pavement opposite Downing Street for the period. Instrumental in the successful planning and de-confliction of the arrival and departure of the aircraft with other central London events (including the Thames Festival and the visit of Pope Benedict XVI), he provided clear leadership and direction to this staff in order to ensure the safety of vehicular traffic and passing pedestrians, as well as ensuring that the needs of the team of personnel from 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron, Royal Air Force Wittering, were met.

In sum, my sincere thanks to Inspector McDonald and his team, who displayed outstanding enthusiasm for the variety of tasks they engaged upon. It is clear that their efforts aided in bringing much joy to the veterans who visited the Ministry of Defence during this commemorative period and in turn, provided the Royal Air Force with the opportunity to salute the achievements of not just 'The Few' but also to honour the wider bravery and sacrifice shown by the many, which helped to secure the freedom we enjoy today.

From: **Andrew Robathan MP, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans**

Thank you for hosting me and for managing my change in arrival and departure so smoothly!

I welcomed the opportunity to be able to meet and speak to so many members of staff and to address your annual 'Town Hall' meeting (see page 1). It was heartening to be asked so many questions in such a positive and supportive manner, when I know how unsettling and uncertain the immediate future is.

I commend you and all your staff for your hard work. It is clear that everyone in the MDPGA believes passionately in what they are doing and are proud of the work they do. They have much to be proud about.

Please pass on my thanks to all those who contributed to organising my visit, particularly Jac Watson and David King for providing me with speaking notes and background brief.

By Chief Inspr John Coffield, Deputy SPO AWE Burghfield

Remembrance Ceremony at AWE Burghfield

The act of observing two minutes' silence is widely seen in offices and factories in towns and cities across the country.

Burghfield is no different and the ceremony has grown over the years from its origins as a Royal Ordnance Factory to its current role as a part of the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

It is attended by AWE staff and the many contractors who work there with ex-Service personnel encouraged to wear their medals. The two uniformed organisations, MDP and the AWE Fire and Rescue Service, take responsibility for laying the wreath or providing the honour guard, exchanging roles each year.

At 11 o'clock on the 11th November 2010 Burghfield staff turned out in the cold and wet to commemorate Remembrance Day at the Main Gate. The ceremony was led by David Jones, the Head of Establishment. He brought the ceremony to order to observe two minutes' silence.

Following this the MDP and Fire officers on parade were brought to attention and a wreath was laid by Deputy Chief Constable Gerry McAuley (pictured below), who was at Burghfield as part of the Divisional visit programme.

The 'Kohima Epitaph' – **"When you go home, tell them of us and say, 'for your tomorrow, we gave our today"**– was read out by Mick Swift, a former Major in the Royal Logistics Corps, and the ceremony was concluded by the playing of the 'Last Post' by Burghfield officer Constable Ryan Mathews.

The ceremony was one of many around the country and overseas in which MDP officers and staff participated.

Recognition for Exercise Planning Team

Members of MDP's Exercise Planning Team – led by Inspr Brian Abram (right) received Chief Constable's Certificates of Merit from Suffolk Constabulary CC Simon Ash (left) on behalf of the Eastern (Counter Terrorism) Region, to thank them for their enthusiasm and support, which had been key to the success of Project Anglian Shield, a Home Office sponsored CT exercise programme, delivered in the region between January 2009 and June 2010.

MDP helps clean up Service Family Estates at St Athan

Pictured from left to right: Pc Keri Jones, MOD Police, Mr Tony Spear, Vale of Glamorgan Council and PC Bob Rand, MOD Police

Following a High Impact Policing Strategy (HIPS) carried by the MDP Defence Community Police Officers, at MOD St Athan, with assistance from the local South Wales and RAF Police officers, it was highlighted that litter and dog fouling were the most significant problems faced by families on the Service Families' Accommodation (SFA) estates.

This problem was exacerbated by there being no litter or dog fouling bins.

DCPO PC Bob Rand told **TalkThrough**: "Litter can be an eye-sore and it goes without saying that dog fouling is a health hazard, especially to young children playing in the area, and both can have an impact on the quality of life of the people living there."

Because these estates are a mixture of service and civilian families Mr Tony Spear, Cleansing Superintendent, Waste Management and Cleansing Department, of the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, was contacted by the MDP and informed of these ongoing issues. After an exchange of telephone calls and e-mails, Mr Spear visited MOD St Athan for an inspection of the SFAs, resulting in the Council, in partnership with MDP, agreeing to provide bins and arrange to have them emptied on a regular basis.

To say the Council acted quickly would be an understatement, within a matter of days six litter bins were placed around the SFA areas. These bins can also be used to deposit dog waste – appropriately and adequately wrapped – as well as litter.

"Everybody living on these estates will now benefit from the installation of the litter bins and, hopefully, use them to keep litter to an absolute minimum," said PC Rand.

MDP recognised at Scott

■ ***On Monday 1st November 2010, Constable Gary Weir and T/Inspr Glenn Marnoch, two Officers from Scotland Division received Commended Awards at the Scottish Policing Awards Ceremony held at Scottish Police College.***

PC GARY WEIR, Defence Community Police Officer at Edinburgh Garrison, received his award in the "Making Communities Safer" category, for developing and contributing to a number of initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life within estates occupied by Service personnel and their dependants.

All applications under this category demonstrated their contribution to one or more of the following key objectives:

- **Supporting the delivery of safer communities**
- **Preserving and restoring public order**
- **Investigating crime effectively**
- **Contributing to the reduction of crime**
- **Contributing to increased public reassurance**

Examples of initiatives Gary has been instrumental in delivering are:

Commonwealth Soldiers / Awareness and Understanding

On his appointment PC Weir recognised that a large number of soldiers serving with the Battalions had been recruited from Commonwealth countries including Jamaica and Fiji. PC Weir recognised that there were a number of cultural issues prevalent within these communities which had the potential to cause policing difficulties. Two areas of concern were the attitude towards domestic abuse and the connection between alcohol and driving. In association with partner agencies and Lothian and Borders Police, PC Weir coordinated and promoted an educational awareness programme explaining the legislative powers applicable to domestic abuse within Scotland.

PC Weir has now ensured that all the resident Battalion Welfare Officers are fully aware of their requirements and he is a point of contact with Lothian and Borders Police for domestic abuse incidents involving all Service personnel including Commonwealth soldiers. Gary has familiarised himself with cultural and social protocols which exist within the Fijian Community. His knowledge of the village clan structures means that he can identify elders serving and living within the military community through whom he can resolve potential areas of conflict.

Working alongside Lothian and Borders Police Gary has coordinated a number of 'Drink Drive Awareness' presentations for resident Battalions within Edinburgh Garrison. He also proactively participates in the annual MOD Road Safety Campaign.

Family Support Group

Gary has developed a very close partnership with Colinton Primary School. Colinton is a Government funded school, although more than 90 per cent of the registered students are Service dependent children. As a result, there is a close association with the military community. Gary is a member of the School Family Support Group, and so has an insight to issues which affect the school. This means he can coordinate both a policing response to identified potential problems and also military assistance for the school in support of or School Open Days / Charity Events.

Neighbourhood Watch Programme

PC Weir noted that none of the Defence housing estates within Edinburgh Garrison participated in the nationally recognised Neighbourhood Watch programme. PC Weir sought opinion from the Defence community and noted that the policy of posting Battalions every two years prevented residents from taking long term ownership or responsibility for their housing estates. Gary recognised that the Armed Forces Review which included amalgamation of Battalions significantly changed the historical military posting policy. As a result Battalions are no longer routinely rotated. With this change in policy Gary addressed the Edinburgh Garrison Welfare Meeting and tabled the issue. Edinburgh Garrison is now actively involved with the programme and there are now coordinators within the estates operating Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

Gary has also been instrumental in setting up the Protocol between MDP and L&B Police (Youth Justice, Social Work Referral and Domestic Abuse) which now exists between MDP Scotland Division Crime Support Unit and Lothian and Borders Police.

Gary had his award presented by Kenny MacAskill MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Justice.

tish Policing Awards 2010

T/INSPECTOR GLENN MARNOCH, MDP CNI Liaison Officer seconded to Grampian Police, was nominated by both Ministry of Defence Police Scotland Division and Grampian Police. He received his award in the "Making Justice Work" category, for his involvement in the partnership management of a joint policing operation, development of joint protocols and the organisation of joint exercises between Ministry of Defence Police and Grampian Police, which has been expanded to include other sites in the UK where the MDP is in similar partnership with other Home Office Police Forces.

All applications under this category demonstrated their contribution to one or more of the following key objectives:

- **Contributing to an effective, efficient and accessible criminal justice system**
- **Assisting in safeguarding national security**
- **Tackling serious organised crime**

Examples of Glenn's involvement include:

Engagement with key stakeholders within Grampian Police

This engagement has improved the awareness of the operation at the sites and has enhanced working relationships within the organisation via interaction with those such as Counter Terrorism Security Advisers, Aberdeenshire Division personnel, Force Control Room, the Emergency Planning Unit and Operational Support personnel.

The development and delivery of joint briefings between MDP and Grampian Police of security staff at the sites

Through briefing and engagement with the workforce at the locations with regards to emergency preparedness and security arrangements there is increased confidence with the various site operators and external stakeholders in terms of the delivery of the Policing Operation.

Development of Joint Plans and Protocols

Ongoing review of the Joint Memorandum of Understanding and associated Joint Contingency Plans between Grampian Police and MDP in relation to the Operation to ensure that they are fit for purpose.

The development of a joint Community Engagement strategy for the relevant sites within the Grampian Force area, which embeds the operation and enhances the local community's awareness of the operation.

Operational Briefings

The provision of briefings on the Operation to the Chair of the Grampian Police Joint Board, Scottish Government Resilience Unit, and Norwegian Police colleagues. These briefings have enhanced the reputation of both the MDP and Grampian Police in relation to the ethos of partnership working and have provided an opportunity to share good practice with representatives from another country who also have significant oil and gas interests.

Operational Liaison

The provision within MDP of a local focal point for all Grampian Police/MDP queries ensuring connectivity between MDP and Grampian Police Divisions and Business Areas. Glenn is the MDP representative on the local Grampian Critical National Infrastructure Group (A Scottish Government initiative) and is well placed to progress actions emanating from this group.

Exercise programme development and delivery

The delivery of an exercise programme for operational personnel to validate the contingency plans mentioned above. The table top exercise scenarios and associated presentations were developed jointly with Grampian Police and the exercise is very much a combined effort between the two Forces. Delegates come from both Forces, leading to a greater understanding of roles and responsibilities, and recently representatives from the operating companies have also attended. The course is run approximately four times each year and has been subject of extensive evaluation, including a structured debrief of participants. The results of these evaluations have consistently been positive with the delegates rating all aspects very highly. This exercise provided a template for the other Forces in the UK involved in the Operation and they have now established similar exercise programmes.

The joint development and delivery of a tabletop exercise for Strategic and Tactical Commanders which received favourable feedback from those involved. Delegates from another Force attended to facilitate this learning across other Police Forces involved in the Operation.

Glenn had his award presented by John Malcolm QPM, Chairman of Scottish Crimestoppers (pictured above).

Chief Superintendent Stephen Walker, Scotland Divisional Commander accompanied the officers to the awards ceremony. He congratulated both officers on their tremendous achievement, observing that both officers, by their personal leadership and example, had shown how partnerships can truly be built and made to deliver outstanding benefits for communities and wider stakeholders even beyond the traditional Defence community we seek to serve.

'Coco' walks the wall for charity . . . complete with sink!

CARE FOR CASUALTIES

■ *MDP firearms instructor Paul Cocoran hit upon a novel way of fund raising when he walked the entire length of Hadrian's Wall, carrying full kit, topped off by . . . a kitchen sink!*

PC 'Coco' Cocoran, based at RAF Fylingdales, is a former member of the 2nd Battalion Light Infantry and raised £3,878.56 for the Help for Heroes charity from his astonishing exploits.

On Monday 15th October 2010, Lt Gen (Ret'd) Robin Brims of 'The Light Infantry' (now 'The Rifles'), visited RAF Fylingdales, to collect a cheque from PC Cocoran – whom he has known for more than 30 years – on behalf of the charity.

By a strange coincidence, the Station Commander at RAF Fylingdales, Wing Commander Martin Johnson, had worked with the Lt Gen at PJHQ (Permanent Joint Head Quarters) in Northwood in the recent past, and the two men were delighted to renew their acquaintance.

Lt Gen Brims was invited to lunch, in the brand new Combined Mess, which only opened two weeks earlier.

Pictured (from left to right): Wing Cmnder Martin Johnson (Station Commander), Inspr Terry Aisbitt (Ministry of Defence Police), PC 'Coco' Cocoran, Chief Inspr Howard Harding (Ministry of Defence Police), Lt Gen Robin Brims, Sqn Ldr 'Dinz' Dinsley (Officer Commanding Operations Squadron), Sqn Ldr Ian Wright (Officer Commanding Support Squadron), Flight Lt Mike Foster (Media Communication Officer).

PSD commended by Chief Constable

Chief Constable Steve Love presented the Professional Standards Department, based at MDPHQ Wethersfield, with a certificate of commendation, in recognition of "your outstanding professionalism and for delivering, to a challenging timeframe, the introduction of the new Police Conduct Regulations."

The work by members of the Department's staff "ensured that the new regulations were introduced on time (and) that training was delivered across the Force", read the citation.

They were also commended for their "continued support to Divisions during the commencement of new local misconduct meetings, in order to provide guidance and underpinning the regulations.

"You are further commended for your ongoing work to deliver the new Performance Regulations through the legislative process," the citation concluded.

T/Supt Graham Seal is pictured receiving the commendation certificate from the Chief, watched by some of the Department's staff.

Were you lucky?

See who won the MDP Central Sports and Welfare Association's Lottery draws in July, August, September and October 2010.

JULY 2010

1st	£3,500	PC M D Pascoe, RNAS Culdrose
2nd	£2,000	PC A H James, DSG Ashchurch
3rd	£1,000	Mr A W Duncan, Retired Officer
4th	£200	PC K W Jones, MDP St Athan
5th	£200	Mrs M Melynk, AWE Division HQ
6th	£200	PC S A Wood, AWE Aldermaston
7th	£200	PC R W Yeoman, HMNB Devonport
8th	£200	PC S Munro, MDPHQ Wethersfield

AUGUST 2010

1st	£3,500	PS W Smith, HMNB Clyde
2nd	£2,000	PS J C O'Rourke, HMNB Clyde
3rd	£1,000	PC A J Moffat, Clyde Marine Unit
4th	£200	PS M A Sanford, MDPHQ Wethersfield
5th	£200	PC M R Penman, MDP Bordon Garrison
6th	£200	PC M P Bull, MDP Boscombe Down
7th	£200	PS D A Lavelle, ATC Wethersfield
8th	£200	Mr D G Q Evans, DSG Larkhill

SEPTEMBER 2010

1st	£3,500	PC L A O'Brian, RAF Lakenheath
2nd	£2,000	PC M L Collier, OSU South
3rd	£1,000	PC J Bauld, AWE Aldermaston
4th	£200	PC M D Pascoe, RNAS Culdrose
5th	£200	PC D Mawer, DSG
6th	£200	PS J Underwood, MDPHQ Wethersfield
7th	£200	PC P Weston, MDP Hereford
8th	£200	PC W Colville, RNAD Coulport

OCTOBER 2010

1st	£3,500	PC D T Osborne, MDP Aldershot
2nd	£2,000	PC J M Allan, MDPHQ Wethersfield
3rd	£1,000	DC M L MacDonald, MDPHQ Wethersfield
4th	£200	PC G W Cox, HMNB Clyde
5th	£200	PC B A Forster, MDP SEG
6th	£200	PS A G Busby, RAVC Melton Mowbray
7th	£200	Ms C Worsley, MDPHQ Wethersfield
8th	£200	PC R A Denholm, DDSA Glen Douglas

Police Triathlon news

The 999 challenge triathlon has been moved to Heybridge, near Maldon in Essex, with a new date of 21st August, 2011.

The race is a 1km open water swim held in the sailing club's lake, followed by a picturesque 40km bike ride and then a 10km run along the sea wall footpath.

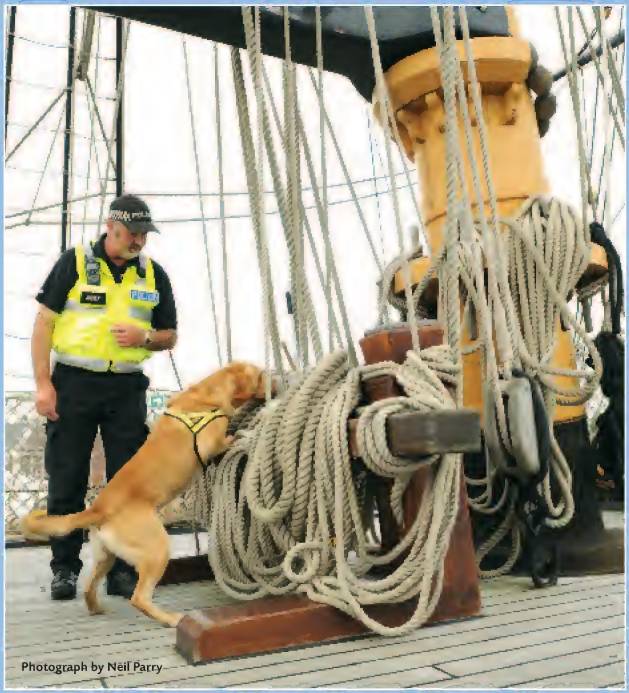
The race is open for entries via **www.entrycentral.com** and a discount is available for MDP officers. Full details are available on **www.multisport-management.co.uk**

The official charity for the event is St. Dunstan's, which looks after Service personnel who have been blinded in action.

PC Graham Lee from Whitehall is running the 1st Sussex Marathon on 3rd April on their behalf. If you would like to sponsor him, please donate via **www.Justgiving.com/Graham-Lee**.

Nelson's flagship searched . . .

Even Admiral Lord Nelson's flagship 'Victory' was searched ahead of the 2010 'Meet Your Navy' days. PC Mike Nichols and his dog Jenson left nothing to chance as they searched the historic vessel thoroughly during MDP's pre-event security operation. Full report on Centre pages.



Photograph by Neil Parry

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